

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00934 301642Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----042917 301723Z /45

O 301604Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 655
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 934

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: UNIFIL - GENERAL ERSKINE'S DEPLOYMENT

REF: BEIRUT 1724

1. FOR REASON CITED IN JERUSALEM 915, SIILASVUO DOES NOT BELIEVE IT PRUDENT AT THIS TIME TO HAVE GENERAL ERSKINE TAKE UP PERMANENT PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS COMMANDER UNIFIL. NEVERTHELESS, ERSKINE HAS BEEN ACTIVE AND IS CONTINUING TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS FEASIBLE ON THE GROUND IN LEBANON. ON MARCH 23, HE GREETED THE FRENCH CONTINGENT ON ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT. FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO VISIT WITH IRANIAN AND SWEDISH UNIFIL CONTINGENTS ON MARCH 26, HE WENT TO NAQOURA UNIFIL FORWARD HEADQUARTERS ON THE SAME DAY. TWO DAYS LATER HE WAS BACK IN BEIRUT AGAIN ON MARCH 28 TO SEE BOTH ARAFAT AND KHOURY AS WELL AS FRENCH COMMANDER AND NEWLY-ARRIVED NORWEGIAN FORCE COMMANDER. TODAY HE IS OFF TO IBIL ES SAQY TO VISIT SWEDISH CONTINGENT AND WILL THEN STOP OFF IN HAIFA ON WAY BACK TO VISIT WOUNDED SWEDISH SOLDIER.

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2. IN PROCESS OF ALL THIS TRAVEL, UNTSO TELLS US HE HAS MANAGED IN ONE WEEK TO SEE KHOURY THREE TIMES AND GUR TWICE. IN BRIEF, ERSKINE IS DEFINITELY SHOWING THE FLAG AND EARNESTLY DOING HIS FORCE COMMANDER DUTIES FROM HIS JERUSALEM BASE. AS OF COB MARCH 30, THERE ARE STILL NO LEBANESE OFFICERS IN EITHER NAQOURA OR TYRE SO THAT ERSKINE WOULD BE UNABLE TO COORDINATE WITH GOL FROM EITHER OF THOSE LOCATIONS EVEN IF HE WERE THERE.

NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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